

Accessing Vital Statistics Data

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Presentation Outline

- Background of Vital Statistics System
- Changes occurring in Vital Statistics System
- Data access at national level
- Data access at state level

U.S. Vital Records System

- State system
- 57 jurisdictions
- Model Law/Regulations
- Model Certificates

Changes Occurring in the Vital Statistics System

Vital Statistics Re-engineering (EDR, EBR)

- Web-based
- May be paperless
- National edits and standards

Changes Occurring in the Vital Statistics System

Benefits of EDRs, EBRs

- Consistent quality control
- More timely for state and national use

Changes Occurring in the Vital Statistics System

New Items on 2003 Birth Certificate

- Multiple Races
- Date of first and last prenatal care visit
- Fertility treatment
- Source of payment
- Infection treated
- Smoking before and during pregnancy
- Maternal morbidity
- WIC Participation
- Mother's Body Mass Index
- Education of parents
- Breast feeding

Changes Occurring in the Vital Statistics System

- 14 jurisdictions have implemented EDR
- 24 jurisdictions have implemented EBR
- 24 jurisdictions have implemented the 2003 death certificate
- 18 jurisdictions have implemented the 2003 birth certificate

National Data Access

- 2003 certificates
- Data files

2003 Certificate Data Access

- NCHS purchases vital statistics data from the states
- NCHS was not funded to purchase the new 2003 certificate data items
- NAPHSIS passed a resolution in 2005 encouraging states to share the new 2003 certificate items with the NCHS but NCHS cannot release the data
- NCHS can analyze the quality of 2003 certificate data

National Release of Vital Statistics

- Historically NCHS has released a public use data file
 - ◆ Files were on tape
 - ◆ Users had to sign a purchase and use agreement that contained confidentiality restrictions
- Currently files are released on CD-ROMs and are available online and users do not have to sign confidentiality restrictions

National Release of Vital Statistics

- Most states do not release public use files
- Most states have a process to review and approve requests for data files
- Allowing the NCHS to release public use files with no restrictions violates most state laws/regulations

National Release of Vital Statistics

- NCHS and NAPHSIS jointly developed a policy that was approved June 2006 for the release of national vital statistics data

National Release of Vital Statistics

Revised policy provides basically four types of electronic data release:

1. Individual-level national public-use microdata file (PUMF) with no geographic detail (no state, county, or city identifiers) or exact dates
2. Tabulated data with geographic detail, available interactively on CDC's internet systems (WONDER, etc.) or as tabulation files on CD-ROM

National Release of Vital Statistics

Revised policy provides basically four types of electronic data release: *(cont'd)*

١. Customized (non-public-use) individual-level file for Federal agencies
٢. Customized (non-public-use) individual-level file for non-Federal researchers

Individual-level national public-use data file

- Individual-level data available on CD-ROM without a Data User Agreement
- National microdata file only—no region, state, county, or city identifiers
- Include all items and detail in the current PUMF except for geography

Data available to all users via CDC internet web-site without Agreement

- Data tabulated interactively by state, county, and/or city: WONDER, WISQARS, etc.
- Tabulations may include county/city detail with population and/or cell size limitations
- Some variables are categorized
- Selected data items from PUMF will be included unless a jurisdiction provides NCHS with laws/regulations that prohibit release

Files of pre-tabulated data on CD-ROM with state/county identifiers

- Tabulated data files would include all state and county identifiers with no cell suppression
- Release requires project proposal approved by NCHS staff and signed Data User Agreement
- Selected data items from PUMF will be included in tabulated-data files unless a jurisdiction provides NCHS with legal requirements that prohibit release of certain data items; such items will be coded as unavailable

Custom individual-level files for federal agencies

- Agency provides project proposal and signed Data User Agreement
- Proposal review by NCHS committee, including NAPHISIS representative with veto
- Customized individual-level or compressed file containing specified project variables from the PUMF and may include exact dates and/or all geographic codes, as needed and approved

Custom individual-level files for federal agencies *(continued)*

- Return files to NCHS within one year unless renewal is requested and approved
- Selected data items from PUMF available for release unless a jurisdiction provides NCHS with legal requirements that prohibit release of certain data items in microdata format; such items will be deleted
- If project request is denied, alternative access may be available through the NCHS Research Data Center

Custom individual-level files for non-federal researchers

- Researcher provides project proposal and signed Data User Agreement
- Proposal review by NCHS committee, including NAPHSIS representative with veto power
- Customized individual-level or compressed file containing specified project variables from the PUMF and may include all geographic codes, as needed and approved, but not exact dates
- Return files to NCHS within one year unless renewal is requested and approved

Custom individual-level files for non-federal researchers (*cont'd*)

- Selected data items from PUMF available for release unless a jurisdiction provides NCHS with legal requirements that prohibit release of certain data items in microdata format; such items will be deleted
- If project request is denied, alternative access may be available through the NCHS Research Data Center
- Researchers requesting microdata or compressed files with exact dates will be required to use the NCHS Research Data Center

Data Release at State Level

- Varies by state law or regulation
- Micro data can usually be accessed through a formal review and approval process
- Recommend start with personal discussion with state registrar

Benefits of State Level Data Access

- More timely
- Represents the state official numbers
- More opportunities to negotiate
- State Center staff may provide analytical or matching service
- Can link with names

Summary

- Vital Statistics is a state system
- Moving towards electronic system
- New 2003 certificate data items becoming available
- Multiple ways to access national data
- Benefits of accessing data at state level